



MORRIS CENTER

FOR LOWCOUNTRY HERITAGE

Grade Levels:

Kindergarten-12th

Duration:

5-10 minutes to introduce the activity

10-20 minutes for activity

10 minutes to share out at the end

Materials:

- Black Construction Paper
- Construction paper crayons or oil pastels

SC State Standards:

English Language Arts

(W) 3.1

Visual Arts

VA.CR.NM.1.1

Visual Music On-site Lesson

Overview

In this study, students will explore the ideas discussed in *Soul of the South*. They will respond to the exhibition through visual storytelling by creating an abstract piece of art inspired by Bing Davis's *Ancestral Spirit Dance Series*

This activity is facilitated on-site at the Morris Center.

Learning Objectives

- Students will cultivate an understanding of the musical history of the South with a highlight on jazz.
- Students will explore the artwork of Bing Davis and his inspiration of African tradition and jazz musical style.
- Students will practice using elements of art to create a visual image of where they illustrate music as it is played.



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Activity

- Introduce the activity to the students. *Today you saw the Soul of the South exhibition. What types of music did you learn about? [gospel, blues, jazz] You will get a chance to create artwork inspired by traditional African textiles and the improvisation of jazz music.*
- Discuss the jazz music with students.
 - *What can you tell me about jazz music?*
 - *What instruments are used?*
 - *What is the tempo of jazz music?*
 - *What is improvisation in jazz music?*
- *Now, we will look at the art of Willis "Bing" Davis. He is a contemporary artist from Ohio. He created a series of paintings called the Ancestral Spirit Dance. In this series, he used patterns found in traditional kente cloth from Ghana. These patterns use geometric shapes. He then uses organic shapes and line to represent the movement of a jazz soloist improvising music. [See example of Bing Davis' Ancestral Dance below]*
- *You will now use your crayons or pastels to create 5-7 areas of geometric patterns inspired by kente cloth. Think about where you want the areas to be in your composition. Now, I will play a selection of jazz music. Feel the music and use your pastels or crayons create an area of improvisation. Think about the movement of the music and how you can use color, line and shape to illustrate it. [Depending on the grade level you may want to give students some specific guidelines.]*
- Students can share their images with the class.



Ancestral Spirit Dance #332, 2005